



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
HOUSE OF DELEGATES
RICHMOND

COLONEL DICK BLACK (USA RET.)
20978 FLATBOAT COURT
STERLING, VIRGINIA 20165
THIRTY-SECOND DISTRICT

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:
COURTS OF JUSTICE
TRANSPORTATION
LABOR AND COMMERCE
CLAIMS
MINING AND MINERAL RESOURCES

January 22, 2002

Renata Hesse
Trial Attorney
U.S. Department of Justice
601 D Street, N.W. #1200
Washington, D.C. 20530
By fax: (202) 616-9937

Dear Ms. Hesse:

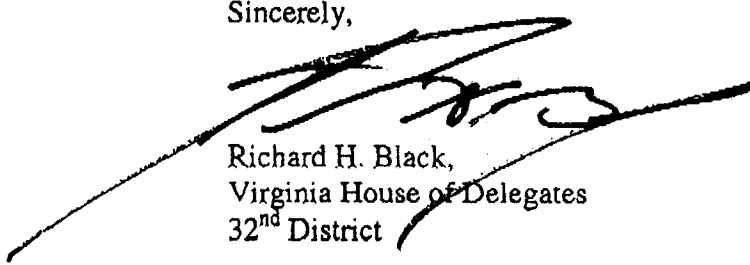
I urge you to approve the proposed settlement agreement in the case of United States v. Microsoft. Continued uncertainty surrounding this litigation has caused shock waves within the technology community that are impacting the economy.

I have received numerous complaints from the public regarding the Microsoft antitrust case. The public does not understand why Microsoft has come under judicial attack. I have not heard from a single individual urging continuation of the lawsuit.

As the most highly visible high-tech company in America, Microsoft is a bellwether for the health of the industry. The antitrust lawsuit could not have come at a worse time. A number of technology firms in or near my district have experienced financial distress unconnected with Microsoft. However, their difficulties are aggravated by the immense uncertainties surrounding that company. Prompt settlement of this case is crucial, not only to Microsoft, but to the industry as a whole.

I understand that the proposed terms of the settlement are fair to all parties. I support the settlement as written and urge immediate finalization of the case now pending before the federal court.

Sincerely,



Richard H. Black,
Virginia House of Delegates
32nd District

bly/cc: E. David Foremen, Jr.